





Believe in a Better New West: An Action Plan





The New West Progressives is an elector organization that offers a positive alternative to the current slate of elected officials to city hall and school board trustees.

Like you, we chose New West as our home and as such we know the challenges and opportunities of our city.



With that in mind, we have created a comprehensive action plan to address the key points that will make New West an even better place to live, work and play.

On October 15 [#ChooseProgress](#) and help us make that happen!



Ken Armstrong for Mayor

Our platform is intended to ignite your imagination and help New Westminster plan and prepare for the future. If you have an idea that is not listed in this platform, feel free to contact one of our candidates today to discuss.

Once again, thanks for your support on October 15th.



Rick Folka



Council Candidates



Jiayi Li-McCarthy



Karima Budhwani



Daniel Fontaine



Paul Minhas



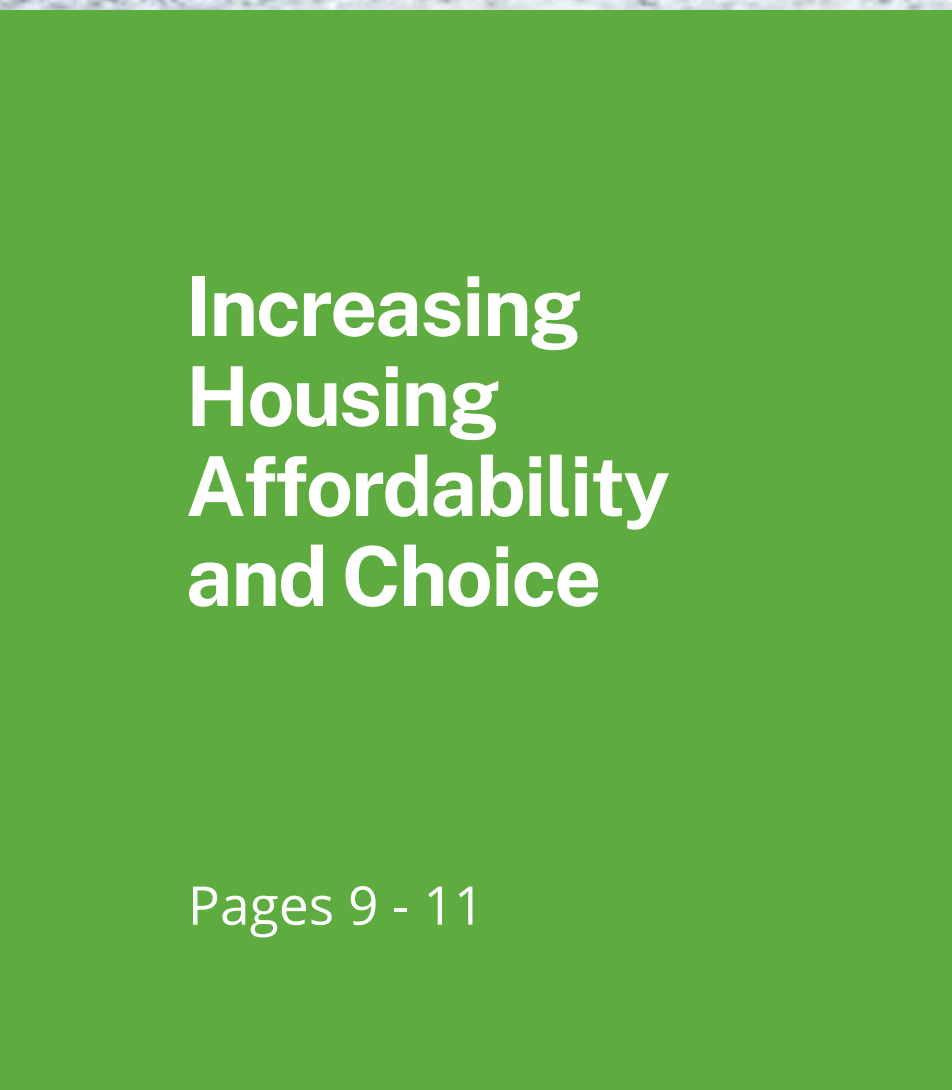
Fostering a Vibrant Local and Regional Economy

Pages 12 - 13



Reducing Infrastructure Deficit & Supporting an Active and Sports-Friendly City

Pages 16 - 18



Increasing Housing Affordability and Choice

Pages 9 - 11



Strengthening Neighbourhoods and Community Engagement

Pages 14 - 15





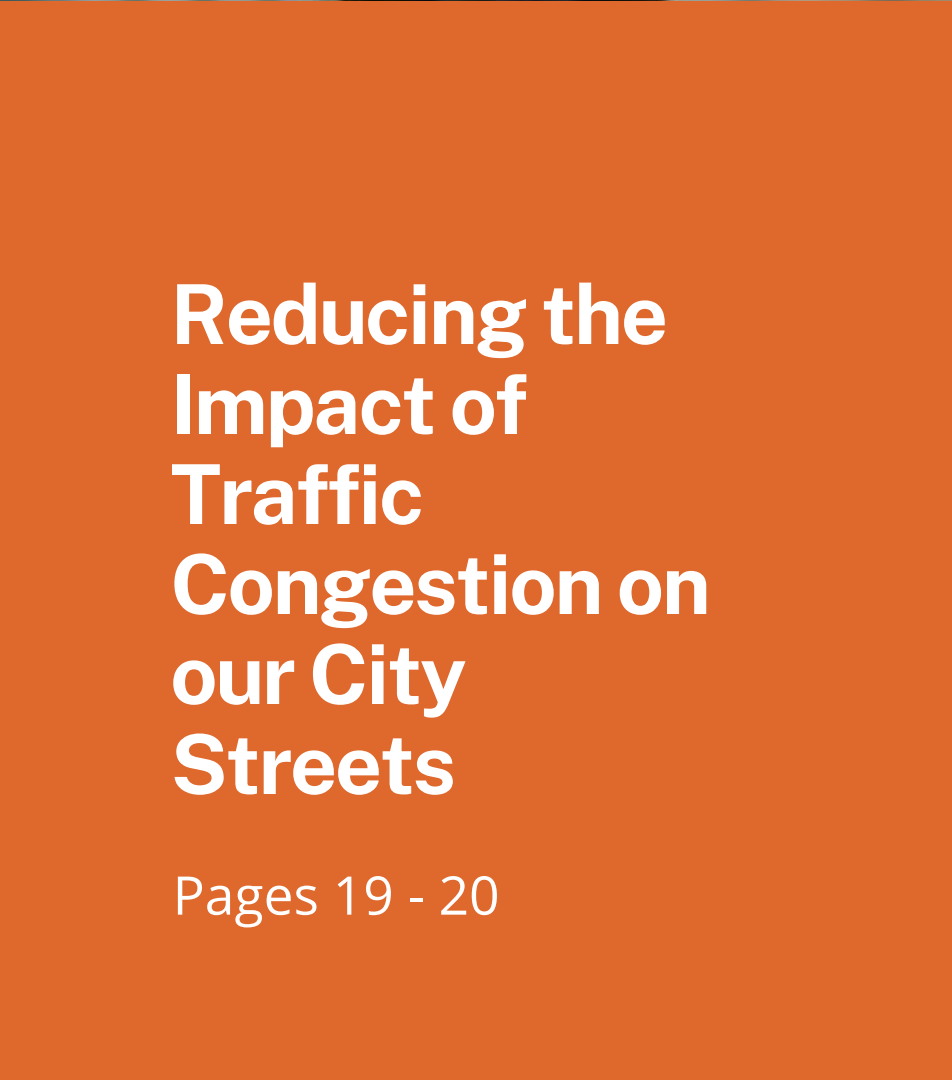
Protecting our Environment by Nurturing a Greener and More Livable City

Pages 21 - 24



Reducing Crime and Improving Public Safety

Pages 27 - 28



Reducing the Impact of Traffic Congestion on our City Streets

Pages 19 - 20



Fostering New West as a Fun City to Live, Work and Play

Pages 25 - 26





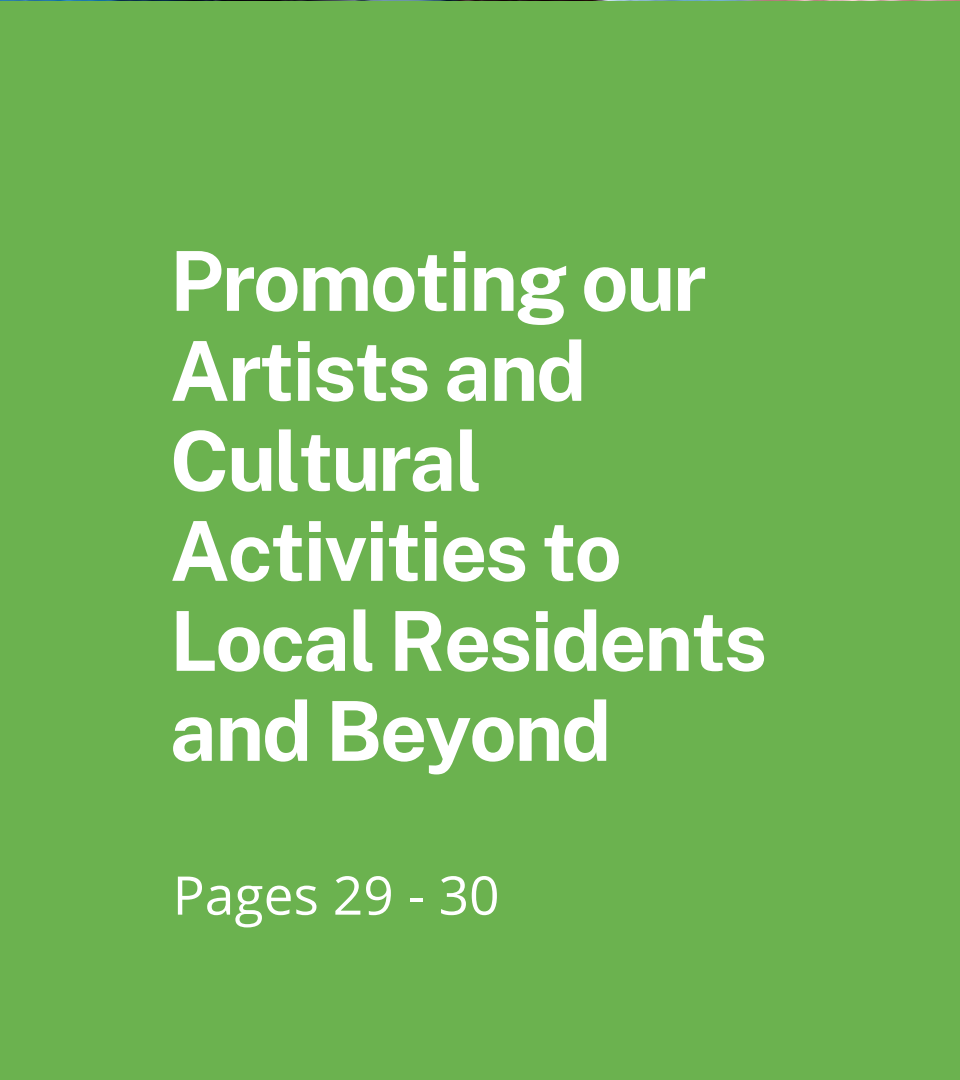
Supporting a Higher Level of Transparency, Accountability and Fiscal Responsibility

Pages 31 - 32



Our Commitment to Queensborough

Pages 35 - 36



Promoting our Artists and Cultural Activities to Local Residents and Beyond

Pages 29 - 30



Making New West a Recognized Pet-Friendly city

Pages 33 - 34



Increasing Housing Affordability and Choice



Better Choice

- Providing more housing options for New Westminster families through the development of a bold action plan that will facilitate the overall number of 'missing middle' i.e. duplex, fourplex and townhouse units approved for development by at least 40% by 2030. This strategy will place a priority on developing individually owned (fee simple) townhouses for those who don't want to deal with a strata council.
- Encouraging the development of new age-appropriate apartments and living units for empty-nesters that want to stay in New Westminster, but don't want to live in a traditional apartment.
- Exploring every option possible to implement the "15 minute city" model where a greater percentage of people living in New Westminster have access to essential urban services within a 15 minute walk or bike ride.

Increasing Supply

- To encourage more secondary suites and recognize the important role they play in the creation of affordable housing and 'gentle densification', we will reduce non-metered utility fees for single family homeowners with secondary suites.
- Facilitate the development of at least 25% more secondary suites and laneway houses by 2026 by implementing a new simplified approval process - while also factoring in the important need for local access to parking spaces.



Increasing Housing Affordability and Choice



NW Progressives understand that if we want to maintain our city as a family-friendly place to live, we need to ensure we do everything within our jurisdiction to support the development and retention of affordable housing. We recognize the lack of affordable housing as a crisis in our city that is only compounding and increasing the risk of becoming unhoused; as such it will be responded to in that manner. As a team, we commit to:

Speeding up approval times

- Establishing key performance measurement targets for the effective and efficient issuance of development permits. This will include a senior management accountability framework to ensure we meet our targets.
- Reducing parking requirements in “transit-oriented” developments in exchange for the development of long-term below market housing or an identified community public amenity.
- Streamlining permitting times by establishing up to 15 pre-approved designs that will reduce construction costs for the homeowner and city taxpayers. This will be modelled after similar programs for laneway housing developments.

Building Affordable Housing

- Supporting and fast-tracking the construction of at least 1,500 non-market or lower-end-of-market family-friendly rental units by 2028. We will make city-owned properties available for partnership with senior levels of government who wish to build this type of affordable housing.
- Taking the best and most successful policy ideas and actions from around British Columbia, we will not ‘recreate the wheel’. We will be implementing innovative policies and actions that increase access to affordable housing.
- To help reduce the number of spot rezonings and facilitate the creation of affordable housing, we will direct staff to prepare a by-law, similar to Victoria, that supports the pre-approval, fast-tracking and reduction of red tape for the development of non-profit housing that fully conforms with our approved Official Community Plan (OCP).

Increasing Housing Affordability and Choice



Helping the Unhoused and Those at Risk of Joining Them

- Ensuring New Westminster works with the Province of BC and the Government of Canada to provide adequate funding to support the establishment of temporary shelter spaces for our identified unhoused residents.
- Committing to support existing policies that limit the stratification of existing rental housing stock.
- Switching from a “Housing First” model to a “Not Just Housing” model to ensure the unhoused have adequate wrap around services.
- Advocating through Metro Vancouver and the Union of BC Municipalities that other Metro Vancouver cities also ‘do their part’ when it comes to providing adequate temporary and permanent housing for the unhoused.

Daniel Fontaine, City Council Candidate

Fostering a Vibrant Local and Regional Economy



The NW Progressives will actively work to support the growth and financial sustainability of local businesses of all sizes. As a team, we commit to:

- Providing one-hour free parking in our main commercial districts and two hours of free parking for no carbon emission vehicles as part of a pilot project.
- Working with Metro Vancouver to ensure that any major capital improvement projects undertaken in our city takes into account the possible negative impacts to local businesses.
- Engaging with other business districts to determine feasibility of expanding the number of Business Improvement Areas (BIA) throughout the city.
- Supporting the efforts by our local BIAs to market and encourage residents to 'shop local'.
- Proactively supporting the formal development of a Metro Vancouver regional economic development strategy that provides incentives to create jobs and maintain a competitive tax structure.
- Undertaking a 'Re-imagine Columbia Street' initiative with a goal of attracting a more diverse group of retail merchants that will help to better animate the streetscape and revitalize the local economy.
- Developing a timely, streamlined and more cost-effective process for business permit applications. This process would include a new 'one-staff interface' model allowing for much easier access to city programs and services for individuals wanting to set up shop in New Westminster.

Fostering a Vibrant Local and Regional Economy



- Marketing and promoting our unique position as the home to Douglas College to encourage graduates to consider New Westminster as their permanent home or place to set up and do business.
- Supporting more street festivals as a means to expose our local businesses to a wider regional audience.
- Working with landowners to reduce the number of vacant and underutilized buildings by at least 25% in our first term. This includes exploring incentives and legislative authority to accelerate the development of vacant 'abandoned' properties in critical commercial hubs including 12th Street and Columbia Street.

Paul Minhas, City Council Candidate

Strengthening Neighbourhoods and Community Engagement



Connecting our citizens to various city programs and services is vital if we are to build a strong sense of community and public engagement. As a team, we commit to:

- Reversing the decision to eliminate and phase out the Royal City moniker.
- Hosting at least one City Hall town hall and two regular council meetings per year in Queensborough.
- Confirming the continued use and ongoing promotion of online platforms such as Zoom to allow better access to city hall for all citizens.
- Reporting annually on progress regarding the recommendations made by the *Mayor's Taskforce on Public Engagement*.



Strengthening Neighbourhoods and Community Engagement



- Establishing a joint Council-School Board Long-Term Planning Committee to ensure better collaboration between the two elected bodies within 100 days.
- Prioritizing and supporting social initiatives involving women's equity, mental health and new immigrant and refugee integration by working with local and regional organizations and advocating for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.
- Establishing regular meetings between Mayor and Council and First Nations & other Indigenous representatives with the aim of advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Karima Budhwani, City Council Candidate

Reducing our Infrastructure Deficit and Supporting an Active and Sports-Friendly City



New Westminster residents value having well maintained streets, sidewalks and parks, and access to great sports, recreation and community facilities throughout the city. Whether it's the sudden loss of our cherished Arenex back in 2016, the abrupt closure of Canada Games Pool before its replacement opened, or increasing programming to accommodate our growth in population, New Westminster can do better. As a team, we commit to:

- Within the first 100 days of taking office, initiating an independent “future needs assessment” and community consultation to determine what should be the key priorities regarding the renewal, replacement and construction of new sports and recreation facilities throughout the city. Council will direct staff to ensure the report:
 - Determines the cost and possible funding sources to expand more all-weather fields to support the New Westminster Soccer Club, New Westminster Little League and other local organized sports groups – with a priority to make new investments at Ryall Park in Queensborough and Hume Park in Sapperton.
 - Identifies underutilized city-owned properties and the cost and actions required to repurpose them to accommodate growing needs by our local sport associations such as the New West Pickleball Club.
 - Contains a thorough analysis of the cost related to and possible funding sources to expand Queen’s Park Arena with another playing surface to support the efforts of organizations such as the New Westminster Lacrosse Association, New Westminster Minor Hockey Association and other local organized sports groups.

Reducing our Infrastructure Deficit and Supporting an Active and Sports-Friendly City



- To address New Westminster's rapid growth, better integrating and expanding of recreational programming aimed at supporting an active and healthy lifestyle for our seniors and youth population.
- Consult with the public and sports organizations to develop a 20-year fiscally sustainable facilities plan that will become a roadmap to ensure New Westminster tackles its 'infrastructure deficit' and reclaims its position as one of the top destinations supporting sports and recreation activities in our region.
- Establish a new Amateur Sports and Recreation Task Force comprised of representatives from all major sport and recreation associations operating in New Westminster to be chaired by a city councillor.
- In partnership with senior orders of government, secure the funding to develop a new community center located in the West End | Connaught Heights area.

Reducing our Infrastructure Deficit and Supporting an Active and Sports-Friendly City



- Within the first 100 days of taking office, direct staff to prepare a comprehensive plan for repairing the most serious lifted or cracked sidewalks and patching roads with an excessive number of potholes.
- Actively assess the feasibility of re-establishing a recycling depot within New Westminster so residents and businesses do not have to drive outside the city in order to do their part in combating the climate emergency.
- Require new development proposals to include plans and contributions to infrastructure, including public green space, additional community centers, and additional schools.
- Collaborate with the School Board to ensure land is designated in the Official Community Plan for new schools to accommodate future growth.
- Commence the immediate removal and replacement of all dead and dying street trees on our major roads and have this work completed within 18 months.

Daniel Fontaine, City Council Candidate



Reducing the Impacts of Traffic Congestion on our City Streets



We are at the geographic center of Metro Vancouver and as a result, our community feels the brunt of traffic congestion on a daily basis. More needs to be done to address the concerns expressed in our community about how more cars flowing on our streets is having a negative impact on our quality of life. As a team, we commit to:

- Ensuring pedestrians are truly considered the number one priority when it comes to new transportation infrastructure investments.
- Coordinate with NWPD to increase the enforcement of traffic violations.
- Safer pedestrian crossings on major arteries with crossing signals and better lighting.
- Actively monitoring and publicly reporting on a quarterly basis regarding problematic traffic patterns and hotspots.
- Supporting new vehicular transportation infrastructure to decrease overall traffic congestion.
- Better support – through targeted investments – the implementation of traffic calming measures in residential neighbourhoods impacted by “rat runners”. This includes fast-tracking the construction of speed bumps in neighbourhoods which have requested their implementation.

Reducing the Impacts of Traffic Congestion on our City Streets



- Increasing the visibility and overall scope of our separated bike lane network and cycle pathways by first securing the support of local businesses and residents. Also ensure that the installation of any permanent bike lanes in the future will not have a detrimental effect on local businesses.
- Implementing measures to address concerns of West End and Connaught Heights residents regarding “queue jumpers” on 20th Street. Furthermore, increase enforcement and paint “Do Not Block Intersection” signage at 20th Street & 8th Ave as a means of facilitating east-west traffic flow. This can also be expanded to other major intersections.
- Supporting residents and business groups interested in establishing ‘car free days’ in their neighbourhoods or business districts.

Rick Folka, City Council Candidate



Protecting Our Environment by Nurturing a Greener and More Livable City



We all know that cities play a vital role when it comes to managing our global environment. The Climate Emergency is real – our city could and should be doing more to address the issue of climate change.

We also know that we must work harder to ensure that New Westminster remains a livable community. As a team, we commit to:

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- Develop and implement an integrated green infrastructure strategy that supports climate change adaptation and strengthens natural asset management.
 - Establishing a minimum standard of green/park space required around the city that will support the needs of a growing population living in more dense neighbourhoods.
 - Establishing new “pocket park” green spaces in priority areas that are accepting a higher proportion of density.
 - Working with the Province of B.C. and rail companies to secure infrastructure investments which will support complete whistle cessation by no later than 2026 in all the key targeted crossings identified by the city. A commitment will be made to the residents of Sapperton living in high density residents that their community will have whistle cessation measures in place by 2026 at the latest.

Protecting Our Environment by Nurturing a Greener and More Livable City



- Ensuring our city is adequately prepared to support our most vulnerable citizens struggling to deal with future climactic events such as 'heat domes', snow and ice events. New Westminster had the highest death rate compared to other Metro Vancouver cities during the 2021 'heat dome' event. One such strategy may be to activate the New West Fire Department in emergency response.
- Supporting the implementation of a new program encouraging single family residents to open up their backyards to those interested in growing their own food.
 - As part of this initiative, identifying and making available more underutilized city-owned land that can support neighbourhood-based initiatives to develop community gardens.
- Actively encouraging private landowners to offer their land up to community-based groups for the planting of edible fruit trees and vegetables.
- Support Metro Vancouver 2040 Shaping Our Future regional growth strategy which will help to reduce the impact of future climate change by:
 - Accelerating the development of more compact and walkable neighbourhoods which make people less dependent on fossil fuels.
 - Creating a new "Industrial and Commercial Land Reserve" policy which will strengthen the protection of jobs-producing land for future generations and reduce the impact of urban sprawl.



Protecting Our Environment by Nurturing a Greener and More Livable City



- Getting people out of their cars by working with TransLink to further expand bus service within the city.
- Eliminating the need for plastic water bottles and increasing better access to fresh local drinking water by converting fire hydrants into drinking fountains throughout the city.
- Decreasing wait times for neighbourhoods to access the city's boulevard street planting program.
- Establishing clear performance targets for the removal and replacement of dead or dying street trees in a timelier fashion. Expand the city's public tree watering program to help ensure mid and larger trees are given the water they need to survive periods of extreme heat.
- Continuing to make investments in beautifying our high pedestrian traffic public spaces as part of an overall Garden and Horticulture Tourism Strategy.
- Conduct an independent review regarding the effectiveness of the City's tree removal by-law.

Protecting Our Environment by Nurturing a Greener and More Livable City



- Become the most electric vehicle friendly jurisdiction in Greater Vancouver. Increasing the overall use of city-owned electric vehicles to support our efforts to limit future climate change. This would include:
 - Establishing a target of having 50 per cent of our city fleet of vehicles no longer using fossil fuels by 2030.
 - Developing a capital plan for the New Westminster Police Department which would eliminate the purchase of fossil-fuel based vehicles by no later than 2030 – assuming access to cost-effective technology is readily available.
 - Work with the New Westminster Fire Department to determine operational feasibility of utilizing more environmentally-friendly vehicles.

Rick Folka, City Council Candidate

Fostering New Westminster as a Fun City to Live, Work and Play



Located in the heart of the Lower Mainland, New Westminster offers a great opportunity to become a 'fun' destination. We need to adopt innovative ideas implemented in other cities that have a more vibrant patio culture and a willingness to support local citizens enjoying our parks and open spaces. As a team, we commit to:

- Increasing the overall number of approved permanent patio spaces in the city by reducing the associated fees and onerous red tape that is associated with their development, while expanding a Portland-style "Street Seats" program to support our local restaurants and cafes.
- As a means to fostering better neighbourhood engagement, eliminating all permit fees to host one neighbourhood street party per calendar year by April 2023.
- Having New Westminster play host to at least one major street festival per month on average.



Fostering New Westminster as a Fun City to Live, Work and Play



- Finding opportunities to activate and bring to life unused and underutilized back lanes and side streets. The primary focus will be to develop new red-tape free micro-destinations that pedestrians and cyclists will be able to easily access, which promotes more street activities within neighbourhoods.
- In consultation with local residents, businesses and the appropriate provincial and federal regulatory bodies – develop a new “Waterfront Access Strategy” that will provide citizens an increased number of safe access points to the Fraser River. This will include the development of increased capacity to temporarily moor a pleasure craft to access the shoreline and adjacent business districts in the downtown and River Market areas.
- Secure funding from senior levels of government to redevelop Pier Park and connect the downtown waterfront with Sapperton Landing Park.

Karima Budhwani, City Council Candidate

Reducing Crime and Improving Public Safety



New Westminster deserves to live and work in a safe and secure community. We need to re-orient more police resources on the street and ensure we better report out crime 'hot spots' in order to better develop long-lasting solutions. Working as a team, we are committed to:

- Working with the Police Chief to dedicate new and shifting existing resources toward more non-traditional policing methods such as community policing offices, bike and foot patrols. This initial focus of these efforts will be in our downtown core which has faced increasing issues related to public disorder.
- Working with the New West Police Department (NWPD) to determine opportunities to significantly expand the Community Policing Office in Queensborough by 2024.



Reducing Crime and Improving Public Safety



- Increasing transparency, inclusivity and encouraging the opportunity for front-line NWFD and NWPD staff to provide feedback to senior management, Mayor and Council.
- Lobbying our local Member of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly to advocate for increased mental health and housing supports for people living on our streets.
- Seek funding from the Provincial Government to support more mental health support workers who would pair up with our local police.

Paul Minhas, City Council Candidate

Promoting our Artists and Cultural Activities to Local Residents and Beyond



Our city has an incredible arts and culture community that has demonstrated it is capable of producing top-quality festivals, events and products. If we are better able to promote this vital community, it will encourage them to play a stronger leadership role when it comes to the development of the city's arts and culture strategy, which can only have positive and far-reaching results. As a team, we commit to:

- Continue the support for a multi-year arts and culture funding strategy.
- Implementing effective, meaningful and ongoing dialogue with the local arts and culture community.
- Reducing and/or eliminating duplication between city-operated arts programs and those run by community groups and agencies - with an aim to supporting community groups as a first priority.
- Developing affordable 'live-work' housing for local artists.



Promoting our Artists and Cultural Activities to Local Residents and Beyond



- Increasing public signage directing people/tourists to local artisans and their studios. This would include more permanent public signage and promotion of farmer's markets and similar events.
- Making accessible city land or buildings to foster the development of a new "NW Art Market" which would showcase local artisans.
- Conducting an independent review of Anvil Centre's programs, cost structure and fees with a goal of making it more of a regional hub for concerts and plays and bringing the gallery to the street level for greater public interaction.
- Exploring every opportunity to develop new places around the City for artists to work and display their art. This could include the approved painting of publicly owned infrastructure such as buildings, fences & etc.

Supporting a Higher Level of Transparency, Accountability and Fiscal Responsibility



An ever-increasing tax burden has added to the challenges of living in a very costly City of New Westminster. Taxpayers expect that local politicians will effectively oversee our budget and ensure that we are receiving full value for the tax dollars we send to City Hall and Metro Vancouver. As a team, we commit to:

- Actively monitoring and publicly reporting on a quarterly basis the current year's actual results compared to operating budget providing explanations of all major variances.
- Actively monitoring and publicly reporting on a quarterly basis the current year's capital budget adjustments providing explanations of all major variances.
- Ensure the five-year operating budget and capital plan addresses the needs of the whole community.



Supporting a Higher Level of Transparency, Accountability and Fiscal Responsibility



- Assist in the development of a capital plan to help New Westminster Police Department and New Westminster Fire Department to determine operational feasibility of using more environmentally friendly vehicles.
- Within the first year, review major city programs, services, and purchases to ensure taxes and fees, gaming revenues, utilities income and surplus reserves are being used most effectively.
- Review policies and procedures for operating material purchases and contracts, and capital project contracts within first 100 days.
- Collaborate with the School Board to advocate for funding and explore innovative partnerships to address New Westminster schools' capacity deficit.

Ken Armstrong, Mayoral Candidate



Making New Westminster a recognized “Pooch-Friendly” city



New Westminster has many dog owners. As the city densifies, it is increasingly challenging for these dogs to effectively co-exist in our urban environment that has limited green space. Dog owners can play an important role in animating our streets and keeping them safe. As a team, we commit to establishing our first-ever “Pooch Platform” and:

- Expanding the number of off-leash dog parks in our city by 20% over the next 5 years.
- Working with local businesses, enterprises, and dog owners, establish a voluntary “Certi-Pooch Program” that would allow for well-mannered dogs to enter businesses.
- Establish a new Mayor’s Dog Owner Working Group to help guide the city’s work in support of our canines.

Making New Westminster a recognized “Pooch-Friendly” city



- Seek out the feasibility of creating a “Pooch Palooza Day” in New Westminster which would celebrate dogs and their owners. This could become a region-wide festival and help to establish our city as the leading “pooch-friendly” city in Metro Vancouver.
- Help convert more fire hydrants to become doggie water fountains – starting in neighbourhoods that are tree deficient.



Our Commitment to Queensborough



The NW Progressives also have plans to ensure Queensborough feels better linked to the rest of our city. If elected, the NW Progressives team commits to:

- Negotiating with TransLink to integrate the Q2Q Ferry into the regional transit fare system and further expand bus service to the Port Royal district.
- Engage with TransLink and the Province to ensure a direct route bus link to New Westminster Secondary School.
- Installing more well-lit pedestrian-controlled crossings on major roads.
- Bringing up to standard poorly maintained sport and recreational facilities.
- Better use the southern part of Ryall Park as a space for an all-weather artificial turf field with a walking track.



Our Commitment to Queensborough



- Hosting at least one City Hall town hall and two regular council meetings per year in Queensborough.
- Increasing access and visibility of the NRPD through the expansion of the Community Policing Office.
- Determining community interest and feasibility of developing a more permanent light rail commuter link between downtown and Queensborough to replace the Q2Q Ferry.
- Aim to secure the necessary funds to accelerate the elimination of open ditches through a 50/50 grant matching program.

Ken Armstrong, Mayoral Candidate



www.nwprogressives.ca

 info@nwprogressives.ca

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